

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Perry A. Gray)
)
Certificate # 093264)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 13, 2004. On March 18, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his certificate to Mr. Perry A. Gray by certified mail, return receipt requested delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Gray received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his name. Mr. Gray initially requested a hearing but agreed through his attorney, Johnny Morant, Esquire to resolve the case without a hearing upon the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) he agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to give a public reprimand for Mr. Gray's conduct as agreed to by the parties.

Mr. Gray holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has three years of teaching experience. He was under contract with the Georgetown County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year as a science teacher at Georgetown High School. On January 24, 2003, he was suspended following an investigation into allegations that he had made inappropriate and unprofessional comments to a female student. On February 25, 2003, he entered into a settlement agreement with the District and agreed to resign effective February 25, 2003. The District provided the Department with numerous statements from students who witnessed Mr. Gray's misconduct.

Accepted:

Initial Here

Date: _____

Perry Gray
#093264

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Mr. Gray's conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 16, 2003

I, Perry A. Gray, SC Teaching Certificate # 093264, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

12/29/03
Date

/S/Perry A. Gray
Signature